

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

HB2100: Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Bill Hearing Date: August 3rd, 2026

Position: Unfavorable

Dear Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kenneth, and other Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

I am submitting testimony against House Bill 2100, which would amend the constitution to remove the requirement that legislative districts be contiguous, which serves as a key protection against partisan gerrymandering and against communities being divided between congressional districts. This bill has the potential to tear apart communities and is an assault on the basic principles of democratic government.

While legislatures and governors in states like Texas, Florida, and Louisiana have changed their maps before a census cycle in a blatant attempt to secure more seats for their own party, this is not an excuse for us to adopt those same practices.

Trying to counter the threat to democracy posed by the current administration and the Republican party does not warrant adopting their own tactics in our own strongholds. Doing so does not strengthen, but in fact assaults, our democratic institutions.

This bill could lead to a map where Democrats elect representatives from all 8 congressional districts despite only composing 51.2% of Maryland voters. If this authority is not intended to be used for partisan advantage in this way, then there is little reason to remove this existing safeguard. This just isn't right – for the same exact reason that gerrymandering in Texas and Florida is wrong. It would strip Republicans and Independents of meaningful representation of their interests.

We should be serving as an example to other states, not adopting their own practices that undermine fair representation in an attempt to gain another seat for our party. Some things are more important than partisanship, and I would say that ensuring everyone has a vote that matters and a representative who represents them is more important than partisan politics.

For all those reasons, I urge you to prioritize our democratic institutions over partisan politics and vote for an unfavorable report on House Bill 2100.

Thank you for your time,

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